

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to have the status and content indicated in the following listing of claims, wherein any cancellation of claims is made *without prejudice*.

1-10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended) A composition comprising ~~the~~ a monoclonal antibody ~~of any one of claims 1 to 3, capable of binding to the IL 12R  $\beta$ 2 chain expressed on the cell surface of human T lymphocytes wherein said binding prevents IL 12R  $\beta$ 2 chain-mediated STAT4 phosphorylation or comprising a fragment thereof of said monoclonal antibody~~ and comprising an autoantigen, a peptide fragment of an autoantigen; or a modified form of an autoantigen.

12. (previously added) The composition of claim 11, wherein the autoantigen is myelin basic protein, collagen type II, human cartilage glycoprotein 39, a heat shock protein, insulin, glutamate decarboxylase, or  $\alpha$ -fodrin.

13-16. (canceled).

17. (currently amended) A composition ~~comprising the composition of~~ according to claim 12 and further comprising a physiologically acceptable excipient, diluent, stabilizing agent; or carrier.

18-22. (canceled).

23. (new) A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody capable of binding to the IL 12R  $\beta$ 2 chain expressed on the cell surface of human T lymphocytes wherein said binding prevents th IL 12R  $\beta$ 2 chain from dimerizing to the IL 12R  $\beta$ 1 chain or

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comprising a fragment of said monoclonal antibody and comprising an autoantigen, a peptide fragment of an autoantigen or a modified form of an autoantigen.

24. (new) The composition of claim 23, wherein the autoantigen is myelin basic protein, collagen type II, human cartilage glycoprotein 39, a heat shock protein, insulin, glutamate decarboxylase or  $\alpha$ -fodrin.

25. (new) A composition according to claim 23 further comprising a physiologically acceptable excipient, diluent, stabilizing agent or carrier.

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26. (new) A composition comprising a monoclonal antibody capable of binding to the IL 12R  $\beta$ 2 chain expressed on the cell surface of human T lymphocytes wherein said binding prevents IL 12R  $\beta$ 2 chain-mediated STAT4 phosphorylation and prevents the IL 12R  $\beta$ 2 chain from dimerizing to the IL 12R  $\beta$ 1 chain or comprising a fragment of said antibody and comprising an autoantigen, a peptide fragment of an autoantigen or a modified form of an autoantigen.

27. (new) The composition of claim 26, wherein the autoantigen is myelin basic protein, collagen type II, human cartilage glycoprotein 39, a heat shock protein, insulin, glutamate decarboxylase or  $\alpha$ -fodrin.

28. (new) A composition according to claim 26 further comprising a physiologically acceptable excipient, diluent, stabilizing agent or carrier.

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